

Communications

Members of Reciprocity Class 5-R and EMT-Intermediate Paramedic Class No. 1 graduated on February 20. Reporting to Margret Kellems, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Mr. Latessa has responsibility for the 911/311 operations center for the DCFEMS Department and the Metropolitan Police Department.

Mr. Latessa comes to the District from Norwalk, CT where he was the first director that city's joint communications center. Latessa began his public safety career 30 years ago as a dispatcher and has served as a firefighter and paramedic in several metropolitan areas. He served as the Director of the Public Safety Department in Manatee County, FL from 1988 to 1998. Latessa was employed in the private sector for several years and returned to public service in Norwalk in July 2003.

"We have made significant strides in improving our 911 services but Mike is the right person to take us to the next level," Mayor Williams said, announcing Latessa's appointment in January. "I am pleased that we are able to bring him here to the District, and I'm confident that he's going to manage this operation so that we are not just meeting but exceeding our performance goals."

Customer Service

DC Government's 49th Annual One Fund Campaign Results Thank you to all who supported this year's One Fund Campaign! As an agency, we pledged and donated \$43,692.88, an increase of more than 9% from last year. A special thank you to all of the Captains and special designees who served as Keypersons for the campaign. This program

would not have been as successful without your relentless support. The One Fund closing ceremony will be held the morning of April 30 at Gallaudet University's Kellogg Center. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend, especially this year's Fair Share Givers. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Licia Spinelli in the Office of Customer Service at 202-673-3677.

Fire Prevention

The public education section, with the assistance of officers and firefighters from E-8, E-22, E-30, T-7, T-9, and T-17, conducted four "Return to the Scene" visits on February 12 and 19. Return to the Scene is an educational program conducted soon after a fire related fatality has occurred. Educators and firefighters go door-to-door in the neighborhood of the fire checking homes for smoke alarms, offering fire prevention educational material, and giving smoke alarms and batteries to homeowners that need them.

DCFEMS 4-1-1

Retired Lieutenant Milton D. Dofflemeyer passed away on Thursday, February 19. Lieutenant Dofflemeyer was appointed to the Department on September 8, 1948, at Truck Company No. 5, and retired from Engine Company No. 24 on November 1, 1975.



BEACON

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Members of Engine Co. 16 and Tower 3 observe a moment of silence for the recovery of Prince George's County Fire/EMS Lt. Dino Mahaffey. Lt. Mahaffey was critically injured in a house fire in Oxon Hill February 22nd and remains hospitalized.

Firefighting

Firefighters extinguished a blazing two-alarm fire February 8. Units found heavy fire through the roof of a mansion on Massachusetts Ave., NW that formerly housed the Embassy of the Ivory Coast. The fire extended through the roof, and firefighters had to resort to an exterior operation to extinguish the blaze. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.



Firefighters working Massachusetts Avenue fire on February 8.



Adrian H. Thompson,
Fire/EMS Chief
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

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Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov. Submissions are requested no later than the third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

Published monthly by the DCFEMS Public Information Office, 1923 Vermont Avenue, NW. WDC 20001

Contact us at (202) 673-3331 or fax (202) 673-3188



Firefighters extinguished this yacht fire at the Gangplank Marina February 29. No injuries were reported, but the 36-foot boat was destroyed, and two other yachts sustained severe damage.

Department Smoking Policy

Please remember that smoking is prohibited inside all DCFEMS facilities and all DCFEMS vehicles. The policy is consistent with Mayor's Memorandum No. 91-36 which states that, "smoking is prohibited in all District owned or leased buildings, structures and vehicles." A specific location on the exterior of fire/EMS Department facilities may be designated by commanders or supervisors for members who wish to smoke.

You may refer to Special Order Series 2004 Number 16 for additional information.

EMS

The U.S. Park Police recognized several DCFEMS members during an awards ceremony on February 18. The United States Park Police Chief's Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Lieutenant Dion Prout, EMT-P Matthew Shook, Firefighter James Parson, Firefighter Donnell Troy, and

Firefighter Jake Baker. EMT-P Johnny Baccus and EMT-P Steve Turner received the United States Park Police Lifesaving Award. Congratulations to all.

Diversity Management Office

During 2001, the Tyra Hunter Human Diversity Training Series' *Preventing Sexual Harassment* workshop reached approximately 1,500 DCFEMS employees. This initial effort by the department's cadre of in-house instructors was very well received. Evaluations indicate wide-spread participant acceptance and support of instructors and also perceptions that the training sparked a strong sense of positive change in awareness, thinking and professional interactions.

The *Interpersonal Interactions Workshop* is next in the Tyra Hunter Human Diversity Training series. It supports on-going interactions to explore and strengthen capacity to communicate fully and transform conflicts that are part of day-to-day workplace and public service interactions. We anticipate that training sessions will begin by summer.

Purpose of Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to support DCFEMS staff to:

- build on Preventing Sexual Harassment and strengthen foundations for future trainings
- interact and learn together over time in order to respond to day-to-day and emerging needs
- strengthen capacity for fully effective and supportive professional interaction

This workshop is designed to support respectful, effective interpersonal relations among individuals and small groups. It is designed to strengthen abilities to resolve conflicts at lowest possible levels. It is not designed to address long-

standing, complex organizational or policy conflicts.

Objectives of Workshop

Workshop participants will strengthen knowledge, awareness, and skills to:

- understand what gets in the way of professional interpersonal interactions
- manage anger, transform conflict, keep the peace, continually develop interpersonal skills
- become aware of communication and strategies to resolve conflicts

Outcomes of Workshop

Workshop participants will strengthen capacity to work well with:

- interpersonal style and communication issues and professional interactions
- managing anger and other strong emotions and transforming conflicts

Staff of the department work together and support each other everyday, often in challenging and stressful situations. Their response is critical to the broad range of health, safety, and customer service needs of a fully diverse community of District of Columbia residents, workers and visitors. This training is prepared to support DCFEMS staff in this important work.

Pollin Award

On February 26 the Washington Wizards invited DC Metro area first responders to enjoy their basketball game against the Chicago Bulls. DC FEMS 2003 Bronze Bar winners were given the 2003-2004 Pollin Award for "Providing Outstanding Dedication to the Community," during a center

court half-time ceremony. Family members got in the game too; their children "high-fived" the Wizards onto the court before the game. Congratulations to Captain Edward L. Smith, Lieutenant Gregory G. Crowe, Sergeant Christopher J. Turner, Firefighter Chad M. Breen, Firefighter Wayne V. Darmstead, Firefighter Firefighter Robert J. Feeney, Firefighter Patrick C. McMahan, Firefighter John K. Schunk, and Firefighter Christopher J. Zdobsyz.

Training

Members of Reciprocity Class 5-R and EMT-Intermediate Paramedic Class No. 1 graduated on February 20. The ceremony was held at the Washington Hospital Center's Alice and Russell True Auditorium. Fire/EMS Chief Adrian Thompson said, "We are especially proud of the EMT/I class, because as you are aware, there is a critical shortage of paramedics not only in our department but in the region as well. Also, This is our first graduating class that allows our department to move forward in our goal of increasing our level of care as well as reducing our response time. We are also pleased to welcome six EMTs with prior experience to the District who will join the District's corps of EMS providers. Nineteen EMTs have completed advanced training that will allow them to provide a higher level of care to citizens and visitors of the District."



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